

Dungeness (Carnegie Family Mansion)  
South end of Cumberland Island  
Camden County, Georgia

HABS No. GA 2160

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GA  
20-CUMBI  
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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction  
120 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

DUNGENESS (CARNEGIE FAMILY MANSION)

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Street Address or Location: South end of Cumberland Island,  
Camden County, Georgia

Present Owner: Mrs. Robert W. (Lucy R.) Ferguson  
Woodstock Farm, Hillard, Florida

Present Occupant: None

Present Use: None

Brief Statement  
of Significance: Built as the Carnegie family's "retreat"  
and for their entertaining.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Mrs. Lucy C. Carnegie. Possession between original and present owners, if any, has not been investigated.
2. Date of erection: 1884 (from stone relief on chimney. See photo of southwest side). 1893 (Georgia: American Guide Series, Federal Writers Project, p. 824)
3. Original plans, construction, etc.: Not investigated. Architect's drawings may be available through Mr. Soss, caretaker for the Carnegies at Dungeness.
4. Notes on alterations and additions: Not investigated. None apparent.

B. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: Mrs. Robert W. Ferguson, Woodstock Farm, Hillard, Florida.

Prepared by Philip E. Gardner - October 1958  
Architect, National Park Service

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Florid late 19th century Victorian eclectic, largely unchanged.
2. Condition of fabric: Dilapidated. In need of major repairs.

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Approximately 120' x 50'
2. Foundations: Not investigated
3. Wall construction: Masonry and wood frame

4. Porches: Front porch northeast side; large living porch southwest side; service porch southeast end. All porches are covered. Concrete steps lead up to them from grade. Low retaining walls define raised greensward about porches northeast and southwest sides.  
Sunken carriage porch beneath service porch, southeast end.
  5. Chimneys: Six of red brick common bond; one at center of southwest facade has random range ashlar stone bottom half.
  6. Openings:
    - a. Doorways and doors: Wood framed openings; wood panel doors with glazing.
    - b. Windows and shutters: Wood framed openings; double hung single-pane glazed sash. Some diamond and multi-light glazing. Flat lintels, first and third floors; round arches, second floor.
  7. Roof:
    - a. Shape, covering: Complex hip roof slightly flared over eaves. Wood frame with wood shingles on wood sheathing.
    - b. Cornice, eaves: No cornice. Projecting eaves with gutters.
    - c. Dormers: Several, hipped and shed
  8. Tower: Five-story tower over entrance. First four stories of random range ashlar stone.
- C. Technical Description of Interiors:
1. Floor plans: Two and one-half stories, modified "H" plan
  2. Heating: Fireplaces in every major room. Some with elaborate panelling and mantels.
- D. Site:
1. General setting and orientation: Front of house faces northeast. Savanna on Cumberland Island is a flat, lush, little-disturbed, semi-tropical coastal island with broad, beautiful beaches.
  2. Enclosures: Free standing ornamental entrance wall on either side of entrance drive, northeast side.
  3. Outbuildings: Large recreation building with swimming pool, game rooms, etc. Stables, water tower, barns, tenant houses, etc. General Nathanael Greene cottage about 100' to northwest.
  4. Walks: None. Several oyster shell roads.

5. Landscaping: Elaborate planting - shrubs, trees, many palms - all now growing wild.

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ADDENDUM TO:  
DUNGENESS  
(Carnegie Family Mansion)  
Cumberland Island National Seashore  
Cumberland Island  
Saint Marys vicinity  
Camden  
Georgia

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REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001